



City of Boulder Homelessness Strategy Framework

Homelessness Strategy Purpose

The purpose of the City of Boulder Homelessness Strategy is to:

1. Clarify city goals in addressing homelessness;
2. Maximize efficiency and effectiveness of city resources in reducing homelessness;
3. Engage community and regional partners more broadly in solutions; and
4. Provide a strategic road map for city action on homelessness.

Homelessness Strategy Vision

Boulder residents have opportunities to achieve and maintain a safe, stable home in the community.

Homelessness Strategy Guiding Principles

The guiding principles and goals are informed by national best practices in addressing homelessness, local community needs, and local and regional guiding policy documents.

- *Develop solutions to homelessness in a regional context* – Many people experiencing homelessness are highly mobile, seeking employment, housing, and services to regain stability. Policies, resource allocations and actions in one city, county or metro area impact homelessness among neighboring jurisdictions. Planning and resources should be leveraged regionally to minimize duplication and maximize impact.
- *Effectively use resources within a coordinated and integrated system* - Best practices demonstrate that coordinated services and systems yield better outcomes for people and more cost-effective solutions for communities. To maximize the resources available, the city must have an integrated homeless services system, rather than a group of individual programs doing good work.
- *Consider the diversity of people experiencing homelessness and their unique needs in community planning* - A wide variety of people experience homelessness for many different reasons. Solutions should consider diverse homeless individual and family circumstances and needs.
- *Support efforts which lead to the advancement of resilience, self-sufficiency and independence* - Individuals and families are resilient to shocks and have resources to avoid homelessness and crisis and maximize long-term self-sufficiency and independence.

Homelessness Strategy Goals, Strategies and Initiatives

Informed by the Vision, Guiding Principles and planning process, the Homelessness Strategy is organized around six goals. Each goal includes one or more strategies to achieve the goal. The Homeless Action Plan (HAP) is a flexible implementation plan that includes specific initiatives for each strategy; which can be updated as opportunities and community conditions change. HAP will guide specific work plan items over the course of the Homelessness Strategy.

GOAL 1: PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT HOUSING AND RETENTION

- Provide access to housing options and support, including permanent supportive housing and Housing First for chronically homeless individuals and families, and rapid re-housing and transitional housing for people with fewer support needs.
 - Support people in retaining housing. Housing resources should be allocated to maximize the number of people served.
 - Help people in voucher or rental assistance programs access existing housing.
1. *Facilitate/Support Creation of Housing to Address Homelessness*
 - a. City Housing Targets – Adopt homeless housing targets for City Affordable Housing, including associated policy changes to achieve goals.
 - b. Land Use – Participate in planning processes such as the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP), to inform policy and develop recommendations related to removing land use/zoning barriers to homeless housing.
 2. *Maximize Housing Opportunities Through Regional Partnerships*
 - a. Countywide Boards and Partners– Build on partnerships including the county-wide Homeless Systems Management Board, the [Boulder County Consortium of Cities](#), and the [Boulder County Affordable Housing Strategy](#) to implement policies and programs which create pipelines for permanent housing.
 - b. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) and Regional Partners – Support and participate in the [OneHome](#) regional coordinated entry system, matching chronically homeless people and veterans with regional housing resources through a centralized housing list. Support integration of youth and families into OneHome.
 3. *Maximize Access to Existing Housing in the City of Boulder*
 - a. Landlord Engagement Program – Build on landlord recruitment and retention programs with local and regional partners.

GOAL 2: ACCESS TO ROBUST INFORMATION ABOUT HOMELESSNESS AND COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Provide and promote accessible information about homelessness in Boulder, people experiencing homelessness, homeless services and criteria, to build understanding and support for homelessness solutions.

1. *Homelessness Communications Plan*
 - a. Work with community partnerships to develop common messages related to available services and criteria, ordinances, good neighbor policies and community expectations; making information widely available through traditional public informational channels, community partner organizations, and a variety social media and public engagement mechanisms.

GOAL 3: ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO REDUCE OR PREVENT HOMELESSNESS.

Support programs which prevent individuals and families from the traumatic and costly slide into homelessness.

1. *Invest in evidence-based services and programs that focus on long-term poverty reduction and prevention.*
 - a. Support services focused on poverty reduction and self-sufficiency.
 - b. Support programs focused on Economic Mobility and Resilience and consistent with the 2017-2022 Human Services Strategy.

GOAL 4: COMMUNITY MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM BASED ON EVIDENCE

Support and implement evidence-based practices in addressing homelessness that result in a system of services that is coordinated, integrated, easy to navigate and provides data-driven outcomes that support community goals.

1. *Prioritize Support for Services to Target Populations*
 - a. Priority Populations – Prioritize community resources to help those with the highest needs obtain and retain housing.
2. *Drive Implementation of Best Practice System Tools*
 - a. Coordinated Entry and Common Assessment – Implement coordinated entry and common assessment for all services.
 - b. Navigation Programs – Develop navigation programming to eliminate/ reduce time in homeless services for lower need people.
 - c. Integrated Data –Implement real-time, integrated cross-system data to inform continuous quality improvement and system adjustments.
3. *Maximize Regional Systems Resources*
 - a. Continue regional partnerships to fully utilize system tools and resources such as the VI-SPDAT and OneHome system and Boulder County data platforms and tools.

GOAL 5: ACCESS TO A CONTINUUM OF SERVICES AS PART OF A PATHWAY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND STABILITY.

Maintain a stable safety net of crisis response services, such as shelter, food, access to medical care, transportation and other basic services with a pathway to permanent housing.

1. *Emergency Response System Re-Design*
 - a. Implement recommendations for new emergency sheltering and services model in Boulder that focuses on coordinated entry, prioritizing resources and a housing path for higher-need people.
2. *Improve Access to Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services*
 - a. Build on current community efforts to expand access to mental health and substance use services.
3. *Advance Affordable Transportation*
 - a. Support local and county-wide efforts to increase transportation access such as Mobility for All and expansion of access to EcoPass.

GOAL 6: PUBLIC SPACES ARE WELCOMING AND SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Community members and visitors feel welcomed and safe and throughout Boulder. Decrease the number of homeless residents living on the street at risk of health and safety; provide opportunities to access services and housing to reduce frequent, cyclical interaction in the justice system.

1. Justice System Partnerships – Strengthen system partnerships to offer people experiencing homelessness pathways into services and prevent/reduce time in the justice system.